

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (currently amended): A sintered nickel electrode for an alkaline storage battery in which an intermediate layer of an active material mainly containing nickel hydroxide is applied to a porous sintered nickel substrate, characterized in that a coating layer containing ~~consisting of~~ at least one hydroxide of an element selected from the group consisting of strontium Sr, scandium Sc, yttrium Y, the lanthanoid elements, and bismuth Bi is formed on a surface of the intermediate layer opposite the porous sintered nickel substrate.

Claim 2 (previously presented): A sintered nickel electrode for an alkaline storage battery in which an intermediate layer of an active material mainly containing nickel hydroxide is applied to a porous sintered nickel substrate, characterized in that a coating layer containing cobalt together with at least one hydroxide of an element selected from the group consisting of calcium Ca, strontium Sr, scandium Sc, yttrium Y, the lanthanoid elements, and bismuth Bi is formed on a surface of the intermediate layer opposite the porous sintered nickel substrate.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The sintered nickel electrode for an alkaline storage battery according to claim 2, characterized in that said coating layer containing cobalt is heat-treated in the presence of alkali and oxygen.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The sintered nickel electrode for an alkaline storage battery according to claim 1, characterized in that said lanthanoid is at least one element selected from the group consisting of lanthanum La, cerium Ce, praseodymium Pr, neodymium Nd, europium Eu, and ytterbium Yb.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The sintered nicked electrode for an alkaline storage battery according to claim 1, characterized in that an amount of said hydroxide in the coating layer is in the range of 0.5 to 5 wt% based on the total amount of all the applied materials which includes the active material mainly containing nickel hydroxide.

Claims 6-10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (previously presented): An alkaline storage battery characterized in that the sintered nickel electrode for an alkaline storage battery according to claim 1 is used as its positive electrode.

Claims 12-25 (canceled)

Claim 26 (previously presented): An alkaline storage battery characterized in that the sintered nickel electrode for an alkaline storage battery according to claim 2 is used as its positive electrode.